(c) Does not arise in view of the reply (a) and (b) above.

Development of Mumbai Port Trust land

512. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal of preparation of Land Development Plan of Eastern Coastal port of Mumbai city (Mumbai Port Trust's land);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra have requested the cooperation of Mumbai Port Trust to jointly work with the Government of Maharashtra so as to work out a land development plan that would benefit the city of Mumbai. It has, therefore, been decided to set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Maharashtra with Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust and other stake-holders as members to sort out various issues of Mumbai Port *vis-à-vis* development of Mumbai City.

Students passing IIST

513. SHRIMATI N.P. DUGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has made it compulsory for students who pass Indian Institute of Space Technology (IIST) to work in ISRO for five years after completing their B. Tech. or M.Sc. courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent this move helps ISRO to counter the exodus of scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since the cost of education in the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been totally subsidized, ISRO has made it mandatory for all students passing out of the IIST with "first class" to serve ISRO for a minimum period of five years.

(c) As all students graduating from the IIST with first class will have to serve ISRO mandatorily for a minimum period of five years, it will reduce the annual exodus of scientists from ISRO to that extent in future.

Projects running behind schedule

514. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central projects running behind schedule and the details of the projects where no specified target date was fixed and where the expenditure has crossed the anticipated cost;

(b) if so, the reasons for the projects running badly behind schedule, for not laying down the target dates and the reasons for cost escalation therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the completion of the projects and their target dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) As on 30th June 2007, out of 890 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above, 267 projects are running behind schedule with respect to the latest approved schedule. There are 254 projects with no specific dates of commissioning. In case of 107 projects, the expenditure has exceeded the latest approved cost.

(b) The reasons behind the projects running behind schedule include funds constraints, delay in land acquisition, delay in supply of equipment, law and order problems, geological surprises during implementation, change in scope and under estimation of costs. In a large number of projects without date of commissioning, the project authorities are unable to fix a date of commissioning due to inadequate funding. Time and cost overruns take place as a result of thin spread of resources among a large number of projects.

(c) The steps taken to minimize time and cost overruns and expedite the completion of projects are:

(i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project before investment approval.

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.

(v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems;

(vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns; and

(viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project co-terminous with the project schedule.

DDA's Rohini Scheme of 1981

515. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA is considering cancellation of pending application of Rohini Scheme of 1981;

(b) if so, whether it would not construe a slur on the credibility of a Government agency for not providing plots even after 26 years to those including SC/ST, retiring and retired persons pinning their hopes to get plots for their residence;

(c) the details of other residential scheme within Rohini area started after 1981 and completed till now;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted for mismanagement of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.